

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 EUR-12 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /104 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1256

INFO USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, AO PU PO

SUBJ: CUBANS IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1291

1. WE CONTINUE RECEIVE CONFLICTING REPORTS FROM DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES RE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN SAO TOME. SOURCES ARE INVARIABLY UNIDENTIFIED. HOWEVER, FOR WHAT IT WORTH, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR NOW BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE APPROX 200 CUBAN SOLDIERS ON SAO TOME AUGMENTED BY PERHAPS AS MANY AS 600 ANGOLANS. HE QUOTES FRENCH AMBASSADOR AS BELIEVING THERE MAY BE 700 CUBANS WHICH APPROX SAME FIGURE GIVEN TO US BY FRENCH CULTURAL ATTACHE RESIDENT THERE (REFTEL LIBREVILLE 1291). UNDP RESREP CITED FIGURE OF 1000, BUT SAID HE BELIEVES 300 IS MUCH CLOSER TO TRUTH. HE TOO, THOUGH THERE WERE ALSO ANGOLANS.

2. NONE OF DIPS HAVE ANY CLEAR IDEA WHAT CUBANS A/O ANGOLANS MAY BE DOING THERE. COUNTRY IS SO SMALL THAT ANY EXTENSIVE TRAINING WOULD BE NOTICED BY SOMEONE AS WOULD PRESENCE OF CU ANS IN SAO TOME OR SMALL TOWNS. (APPRARENTLY THIS DID OCCUR ONCE SOME MONTHS AGO ACCORDING BELGIAN).

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PRINCIPE IS VERY ISOLATED, BUT SAO TOMEANS WOULD HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET TTHEM THERE AND PROBABLY SUPPORT THEM. LACKING ANY INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION AND FEARING THAT SOURCE OF ALL THESE REPORTS MAY BE SAME MAN, WE STILL TEND BE SKEPTICAL. IT CONCEIVABLE, OF COURSE, THAT CUBANS AND ANGOLANS MAY BE USING SAO TOME AS REST AREA, OR THAT CUBANS MAY BE USING THE COUNTRY AS A SMALL STAGING AREA

FOR ANGOLA, AND THAT SOLDIERS MAY SIMPLY BE CONFIEND TO
BARRACKS.

3. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY OTHER INFO DEPT MAY HAVE,
AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT PORTUGUESE
THINK SINCE THERE NO PORTUGUESE MISSION IN LIBREVILLE.
TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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